THE TOBACCO BILL.

Mr. S. Sankara Pillai.—I beg leave to introduce at the next ordinary meeting of the Council, a Bill to regulate the cultivation, manufacture, import, transport, possession and sale of tobacco in the State. The existing law on the subject is contained in Regulation VIII of 1063, as amended by Regulations II of 1066 and II of 1076. The provisions of these detached Regulations are found to be defective in several respects. The definition of tobacco is not comprehensive enough. No power is taken under the existing Regulation to regulate either the cultivation or the manufacture of tobacco. Unlike the provisions of other Regulations relating to revenue, the existing Regulation throws the burden entirely on the prosecution of proving wilful contravention of the law, and great miscarriage of justice is the result. These and other minor defects which actual experience in working the present law has disclosed, have to be remedied. It is therefore proposed to introduce a Bill sufficiently comprehensive and calculated to remedy the defects stated above.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE SALT BILL.

Mr. N. Subramania Aiyar.—I beg permission of the Council to introduce a Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to salt revenue in Travancore.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE CATTLE TRESPASS REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. N. Subramania Aiyar.—I also beg that permission may be accorded to me to introduce at the next ordinary meeting of the Council, a Bill to amend the Cattle Trespass Regulation, I of 1056.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE OPIUM BILL.

Mr. A. M. Muthunayagom Pillai.—Sir, I beg to apply for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture, possession, import, export, transport and sale of opium. The existing Regulation on the subject—VI of 1063—is defective in several particulars, and it is necessary to remedy these defects and place the administration of the opium revenue on a more efficient footing, on the lines of the British Indian Act, I of 1878.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE BILL.

Mr. A. M. Muthunayagom Pillai.—Sir, this Bill proposes a new law for the regulation, control and protection of hackney carriages plying for hire for the conveyance of passengers. The necessity for legislation on the subject has long been felt. The Statement of Objects and Reasons published with the draft Bill sufficiently explains, I trust, the main provisions of the proposed law. The object of the Bill is to make provision for the registration of all hackney carriages and to place the same under the supervision and control of the Superintendent of Police; to provide for the hiring of the same at fixed and proper rates, thereby preventing unreasonable and extortionate demands on the part of the owners or drivers of such vehicles; to ensure a decent class of hackney carriages and the orderly and respectable behaviour of the owners and drivers of the same; and to give jurisdiction to Magistrates to determine differences arising between the owners or drivers of hackney carriages and the hirers thereof. I beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. S. Sankara Pillai.

Carried.

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